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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #0551/74
10 Jan. 1974

State Dept. review completed

NOTE TO RECIPIENTS: The final issue of **this informal publication will appear on Friday**, January 11. Some of the intelligence production which heretofore would have been carried in the Eastern European Intelligencer will now be published in the National Intelligence Daily, the CIB (which will soon become the National Intelligence Bulletin), and the Division's new regional publication titled, Staff Notes: USSR and East Europe. The first issue of the Staff Notes will appear on January 14.

Prague Conference of Propagandists Points to Ideological Offensive

Soviet party secretary Ponomarev's speech to the conference of propagandists in Prague during January 7-9, and the communique summarizing the gathering provide further evidence that an ideological offensive is underway.

Parts of the communique are similar to documents issued by the international Communist conference held in Moscow in June 1969. For instance, it addresses itself to "imperialism--the chief enemy of the peoples--of which US imperialism is the bulwark."

Ponomarev was equally forthright. He told his audience that the new atmosphere of detente has brought about a "qualified breakthrough in the crisis of capitalism." He further asserted that the "class struggle" has been made much more acute by the economic and social dislocations arising from the energy crisis.

These remarks echo Brezhnev's recent emphasis on "propagandizing the achievements of real socialism" to counter the influence of Western ideas and values on the Soviet and East European peoples. Ponomarev, who is responsible for relations with non-governing Communist and workers' parties extended the effort to these parties. He also prepared the groundwork for another world conference by lauding the last meeting in 1969 and stressing the need for increased inter-party coordination.

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Moscow's success in persuading representatives from sixty-seven parties to attend the Prague meeting and the fact that it came on the heels of last month's gathering of top ideologists in Moscow also signify Soviet interest in seizing the propaganda initiative. The emphasis that the communique places on strengthening "Problems of Peace and Socialism as a collective theoretical and informational publication" implies that the journal will be a basic vehicle for any new propaganda line.

Although the communique avoids any mention of China, the Sino-Soviet dispute nonetheless played a role in the discussions. Some speakers at Prague--including Vasil Bilak, the notoriously hard-line secretary of the Czechoslovak party--attacked the Peking leadership. Romanian representatives undoubtedly argued against any anti-Chinese polemics, as they did at the Moscow meeting last month. Indeed, the presence of the Romanians in Prague may well explain the failure of the communique even to hint at the question of China's role in the world Communist movement.

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Hungary to Dispatch New ICCS Head

Hungary's new head of its Vietnam contingent, Janos Lorincz, will arrive in Saigon on January 21, after several days of consultation in Hanoi.

In North Vietnam, Lorincz will solicit Communist Vietnamese contributions totalling \$21 million for the upkeep of the peace-keeping effort. The Hungarians claim that an earlier effort to sound out the South Vietnamese Communists brought only a noncommittal response.

The head of the Hungarian military delegation in Vietnam, who will accompany Lorincz to Hanoi, said that if the ICCS begins to go broke, Budapest will recall its delegation.

The 42-year old Lorincz has headed the foreign ministry press section for the last two years after serving as ambassador to China. Hungarian sources claim that he is a "very important official."

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Serb Party Congress Postponed until Late April

The Serb party yesterday postponed its seventh congress until the end of April. Party congresses in Yugoslavia's five other republics may also have to be delayed as there have been only scattered indications that normal pre-congress activities have started. More delays could set back the federal congress, now scheduled for May.

Conservative elements in the Serb party want more time to undercut liberals, who are increasingly exposed to purges. Calls for expulsion from the party of former Serb leaders Nikezic and Perovic are now being heard more frequently in conservative party strongholds.

The postponement may not, however, be an unqualified victory for the conservatives. The announcement also said that the current Serb party leader Vlaskalic, a moderate, will present the main congress report, thereby implying that he still expects to be in charge in April. Vlaskalic has come under strong criticism from the conservatives because he opposes a "witchhunt."

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Romanian Jewish Emigration

The US Embassy in Bucharest has refuted the charge leveled by a Washington Post article of January 6, that the Ceausescu government has put a "virtual stop" to the emigration of Romanian Jews to Israel because Bucharest allegedly feared that the Arabs would stop the shipment of oil to Romania.

We concur with the embassy. The latest Mideast crisis has not cut off the trickle of Romanian Jewish emigrants. It has, however, ended the use of Romania as a transit route for Soviet Jews enroute to Israel. In recent years, Bucharest has controlled the ebb and flow of Romanian Jews. For instance, the Romanians sometimes decrease or expand the number of emigrés to underscore their Middle East policy, while at other times they apparently do it to needle the Soviets.

The Israeli Ambassador in Bucharest claims that the emigration of Romanian Jews continues at the usual slow and "unsatisfactory" level. We feel that the Israeli estimate of the number who wish to emigrate is probably too high. US Jewish agencies estimate that nearly 20,000 of the approximately 80,000 remaining would emigrate if given the opportunity.

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Polish Image of Soviet Dissident is Cloudy

Moscow's assaults against Solzhenitsyn's Gulag Archipelago have been mirrored in the Warsaw press, but the same sense of personal rancor has been missing. In due course, Solzhenitsyn is accused of being a "tool" of Western opponents of detente, a "slanderer" of the Soviet system and a sensation-seeker. The unsigned Polish commentaries have, however, gone beyond Soviet criticism of Solzhenitsyn by outlining the main themes of the book. Polish journalists, concluded Embassy Warsaw, do not choose to be identified with the current defamation campaign. Furthermore, as a result of the publicity given the author, the appetite of the Polish populace for his book may be whetted.

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